



Principal's Newsletter: Belonging together, through change

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope you have had a fortnight since our last newsletter; September has come and gone pretty rapidly and autumn has now definitely arrived!

In the last two weeks JFAN has been buzzing with activity and positivity. It has been a pleasure to begin our Year 6 tours for prospective pupils, parents and carers. We have been popping into lots of lessons and learning spaces where engaging and purposeful work has been taking place, whether it be a science experiment testing chemical reactions, a dance practical, an English lesson exploring the character development in *An Inspector Calls*, or a dynamic workout in the multi-gym, the feedback from our visitors has been excellent.

Also this week, I started my visits to some of our feeder primary schools that I am undertaking this year in order to strengthen our already strong links. It was a pleasure to spend an afternoon at Debden Primary School on Tuesday where I met Year 6 pupils and their parents. I was so impressed with their questioning and engagement. I look forward to my visits next week to Newport, Chrishall and our Trust feeder school, Wimbish Primary Academy.

The trips and wider experiences we have on offer for our pupils has also continued to build momentum with a Year 12 theatre visit to London's West End to see *Our Country's Good* and we are finalising the details of some impressive trips to come, later this academic year. More on that in a newsletter later in the term... As you may know, it was Mental Health Day yesterday and, although it is important to mark the vital importance of positive mental health with a specific day, building positive memories in school will always help to support a healthy mind and spirit and this is what we intend to do with all of our trips and wider experiences.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to hand out our pupil leadership ties to our new Year 11 Prefects this week. Their applications for this role were some of the most impressive we have read; they demonstrated our "4 I's" values powerfully and poignantly. We have exciting plans for how this role will develop this year, starting with some specific work with our Year 7 pupils, helping those that might be finding reading difficult as well as providing some mentoring for those who have also found the transition to secondary school more tricky.

In summary, despite the clearly disappointing proposal regarding the future of our Sixth Form that I shared with you on Tuesday, our school continues to demonstrate all the qualities that make it unique and successful.

My quote of the week today is by the inspirational Dame Maggie Smith who sadly passed away last week. She commented insightfully on the importance of being "open to change" and to accept that we are always a "work in progress." This is a sentiment that drives us at JFAN; a restlessness to keep improving and strive for excellence in everything that we do.

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

11th October 2024

Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **The crossing on Bury Water Lane:** Last week, we had a successful meeting with Essex Highways where plans for improving the safety aspects of the crossing which links our site on Bury Water Lane were being finalised. The plans include a raised table for the crossing itself, improvements to lighting and new signage. Although the date for when these works are yet to be confirmed, it is now clear that this will take place in the spring or summer of 2025. We believe this will have a very positive impact on the safety of our site alongside our fencing project which continues to progress.
- **Smartphone advice:** Although a prevalent feature of modern society, you may be aware that there is extensive research taking place currently about the possible harms that smartphones can have on young people. The following recommendations for parents and carers have been proven to support the safeguarding of children when using a smartphone:
 - To ensure a child does not take their smartphone into their bedroom
 - To agree smartphone free time to support social and family interactions
 - To monitor a child's smartphone use and the apps they are engaging with
 - To ensure they are not accessing large pupil groups
 - To encourage a child to speak about any concerns they have with you

- **Road safety in (and around) Newport:** Please can we ask parents and carers to remind their children of the importance of road safety before and after school. Those that access Newport Train Station or live in Newport must ensure that they use the pavements when commuting to and from school, cross at the crossings on the high street and not in the road and walk sensibly.

Key updates



- **Sixth Form at Joyce Frankland:** A reminder that on Tuesday of this week, a letter was sent to all parents and carers about a proposal to conduct a phased closure of our Sixth Form. There will be a consultation period of three weeks and we would welcome your feedback through the completion of this [form](#).
- **Year 11 Exams Information Evening:** As a result of the public consultation event on Tuesday 22nd October, we have had to move our Year 11 Online Exams Information Evening to Monday 21st October at 5:30pm.
- **Sims App and punctuality checks:** A reminder to parents and carers, that on the Sims Parent App, you can monitor your children's attendance to lessons, including their punctuality. If a pupil is late to a lesson they are marked with an 'L'. We would greatly appreciate your support in enquiring why this may have been the case.
- **MyEd app:** We are updating the software used to communicate and share information with you with effect from Monday the 14th of October. This requires a change of app which is available

for both iOS and Android devices. The MyEd app provides direct access to your child/ren's attendance, timetable, absence records, achievements, behaviour, while also enabling you to contact us more easily. MyEd is a direct replacement and updated version of ParentMail. If you already use ParentMail, once the app is downloaded, you will automatically connect without the need to re-register. If you have any difficulties with any of the above, please email jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

- **Careers Talks:** One of the many excellent aspects of our careers provision at JFAN is when we engage with our talented parent body and invite them to talk about their interesting careers with our pupils. Please complete this [form](#) if you would be willing to speak at one of our careers events this year, if there are any further questions or contributions please contact Mr Grindrod via dgrindrod@joycefrankland.org

Wimbish Primary Academy



Wimbish Apple Pressing Morning

Paul, from The Railway Arms Pub (Saffron Walden), came down to our friendly village school to show everyone how apples are pressed into fresh apple juice. We are very fortunate to have a wide variety of apple trees on our school grounds and sometimes all that fresh, natural and nutritious fruit is wasted. But this year, we arranged a special visit from Paul to show us the process – from tree to bottle – how the juice is made. To make it even more special, we all had a hand in creating fresh juice to take home.

After collecting the apples, the apples were cleaned and checked for bruising and rotten parts. We were all surprised that you can easily cut off small rotten parts and still have lots of delicious apple left – so none is wasted. We all helped to check the apples and remove dirt and leaves before putting them into a large pulper (where apples are turned into an appley mush). This was then put onto a press and squeezed until the juice came out for us to collect.

Everyone at Wimbish had a great day and enjoyed taking part in all the stages of the process and we would like to say a great big thank you to Paul for coming down. He was also hugely impressed with the behaviour of our pupils and their enthusiasm. Fingers crossed he will be back next year when our next batch of apples are ready.

To find out more about Wimbish Primary Academy, please visit: <https://wimbishprimary.org/>.

Thought of the week



“Accept that you are a work in progress, both a revision and a draft: you are better and more complete than earlier versions of yourself, but you also have work to do. Be open to change. Allow yourself to be revised.” Dame Maggie Smith

Dates for the diary coming up...



Thursday 17th October NPA Annual Networking Event

Monday 21st October Year 11 Online exams information evening

Tuesday 22nd October Flu immunisations

Tuesday 22nd October Sixth Form consultation event

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November Half term

Thursday 28th November Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 29th November INSET Day Academy closed to pupils

Friday 20th December Term ends at 1.20pm



1 - Our Country's Good



2 - Theatre trip



3 - Theatre trip



4 - Year 11 prefects



5 - Wimbish Primary Apple Pressing Morning



6 - Wimbish Primary Apple Pressing Morning

Success stories





7 - Jack Year 7

Jack recently participated in the Saffron Seals Club Championship which took place at Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Jack swam in six events the 200, 100 and 50 metre freestyle and the 200, 100 and 50 metre breaststroke. Jack achieved PBs in all six events and was awarded 3 silver medals and 3 bronze medals. Jack joined the Saffron Seals back in April 2024, prompted by his coaches from Walden Jnr Tri after great progress swimming with them. Well done Jack, an amazing achievement.

Newport Parents Association (PTA)



The Newport Parents Association (PTA) help to raise funds for the enrichment of the school and to co-ordinate activities for school parents, families and the local community. We are also a registered charity. We aim to bring together parents, teachers and others to raise money and to support the school raising vital funds to buy items or provide support for pupils not covered by the school budget. For example, the provision of therapy / counselling for students , the provision of new sports and dance equipment , the provision of equipment for the music department and so much more!

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers who would like to dedicate some of their time. That could be sparing an hour or two to help at an event or you may wish to join the NPA committee, new members are always welcome.

If you would like to get involved with the NPA please contact the Chair of the NPA Kerinda Trigg via the Academy's administration email address. jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

NPA Annual Networking Event

The NPA are holding their annual networking event on Thursday the 17th of October between 5pm and 8pm. Please come along to the school library and find out more about being involved with the NPA either as a regular member of the team or occasional helper for events.

Please register interest by texting 07818013200

NPA AGM - Thursday 7th November at 7.00 pm at the Coach and Horses, Newport.

Results from Year 7 Feedback Friday



WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK



We have now collated results from our Year 7 Feedback form and are pleased to say that the responses show that 90% of parents agree that their child has settled well in the first two weeks at JFAN. 92% of pupils know who to speak to if they have a worry or concern and 59% have joined a co-curricular club.

Vacancies



Teacher of Maths

Teacher of PE

Casual Invigilators

Details for all the current Academy and Anglian Learning vacancies can be found on our website [here](#)

Contact Us



Joyce Frankland Academy

Bury Water Lane

Newport

Essex

CB11 3TR

Tel: 01799 540237

Email: jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

Visit us on our website at www.joycefrankland.org

Please follow our social media pages. [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our dedicated [sixth form Facebook](#) page.